



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

November 17, 2003

DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR
BRADENTON BANK FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew today sentenced HOUSSAM M. JOMAA, of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to a term of imprisonment of eighteen months and HASSAN KAMEL BAYDOUN, of Dearborn, Michigan, to a term of eight months' imprisonment. Each defendant had pleaded guilty on July 14, 2003 to one count of conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud and other offenses, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. In addition, the court ordered both defendants to pay restitution of \$163,542.58 to Wachovia National Bank.

According to court documents, both defendants engaged in a conspiracy to deposit numerous counterfeit corporate checks into a business bank account at a First Union National Bank branch in Bradenton, Florida in June, 2002. Over the course of several days, the defendants deposited a total of fourteen counterfeit corporate checks and caused the bank to wire transfer all of those funds to various bank accounts located in Ontario, Canada. The total amount of checks deposited into this account was \$493,076.00. After

discovering the counterfeit nature of the checks, First Union was able to recover some of the lost funds. As a result of the defendants' activity, First Union ultimately suffered a loss of approximately \$163,542.58.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer, Deputy Chief of the Special Prosecutions Section.